Comstock Connect
January 2023 Newsletter

Township Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Township Board

Supervisor
Randy Thompson

Clerk
Nicole Beauchamp

Treasurer
Bret Padgett

Trustees
Jerry Amos
Terry McIiver
Jason Knight
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

Superintendent
Scott Hess

Transfer Station
November 1- March 31

Thursdays
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The Township Hall will be closed on January 2nd in honor of New Year's Day and January 16th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

It's a new year! In this issue of Comstock Connect we have important information for residents for the beginning of 2023:

- Announcements from the Township and Staff (Page 2)
- A link to our "Anatomy of an Election" Presentation (Page 2)
- Information on possible 2023 election dates (Page 2)
- Winter Property Tax information (Page 2)
- January meetings and holiday dates (Page 3)
- The winners of the first annual "Deck your House" contest (Page 4)
- Events about upcoming winter events in Comstock parks (Page 4)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 5)
- Fire Department promotions! (Page 6)
- Important safety information regarding keeping fire hydrants clear of ice and snow (Page 7)
- Statistics from 2022 elections (Page 8)
- An updated fee schedule for the Township (Pages 10-13)

Messages from the Township

Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
(269) 381-2360 ext. 126
supervisor@comstockmi.gov

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We are excited for some big things happening in Comstock Charter Township as well. We're looking forward to beginning the process of moving into our new Township Office in the old Niko's Landing Facility. We also plan on continuing our tradition of celebrating the community's holiday spirit with "Haunt your House" and "Deck your House" annual contests.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk
(269) 381-2360 ext. 111
clerk@comstockmi.gov

In 2023, there is a possibility of a May 2nd Special Election or a November 7th General Election. Elections are always held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the month. Often what is on the ballot on non-major election years are not candidates but school bonds and millage proposals, county wide service and education proposals. These elections are just as important as the major elections and may directly impact your community and tax property rates. We hope you get out and vote!

If you haven't already, check out the link on our website to our Anatomy of an Election presentation to understand more about how elections are run. Have a wonderful New Year. We look forward to another year of service to our community!

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer
(269) 381-2360 ext. 112
bpadgett@comstockmi.gov

Winter property tax season is in full swing. If you expected to receive a property tax bill and it has not arrived, please contact the Township Treasurer to make sure your correct address is on file. Property tax payments can be made by mail; in-person at the Township office; by using our drop box located near our front entrance; or online at www.comstockmi.gov. We accept cash, check, money order, electronic check ($3 fee), and major credit cards (3% fee). To avoid penalty, payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2023. Postmarks will be accepted if payment is received by February 21. The Township is not responsible for lost mail or mail delays.

Curious about the Township's budget or financial position? Head to www.comstockmi.gov and navigate to the Treasurer's page. There you will find a multitude of reports, as well as links to our budget and financial information.

Dates and Announcements

Announcements

The price for a 2023 Robert Morris Park Pass is now $25 dollars. The senior price for people 60+ will remain at $10. This price increase will help us keep Robert Morris Park well funded and provide lots of events for families at the park.

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, January 9th, and January 23rd at 6:00 PM.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Fire Station 9-1, 1960 River St.

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, January 12th, and January 26th at 7 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Reviews Meeting

The Zoning Board of Reviews is meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at 4:00 PM.

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, January 25th at 5:30 PM.

Township Office Closed

The Township Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd, and Monday, January 16th in observance of New Years Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Parks and Recreation

We have 3 amazing winners of the "Deck your House" contest! Congratulations to 5546 Comstock Avenue, 685 Larch street, and 985 N. 26th Street. Check out pictures of the houses below!

5546 Comstock Avenue

685 Larch Street

985 N. 26th Street

Winter Warm-up

On February 4th from 3-6 p.m., join us for sledding, a treasure hunt, kids activities, s'mores, and much more at Robert Morris Park. Weather Dependent. Park Fees are waived for event participants.

Robert Morris Park Passes

The price for a 2023 Robert Morris Park Pass is now $25 dollars. The senior price for people 60+ will remain at $10.

If you see something, say something. If you see someone dumping trash or you see other unlawful activities, please contact 269-343-8212 or email us at parks@comstockmi.gov. You can also contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department through the non-emergency line (269) 488-8911. If safe, try to record a plate number. We also have a complaint form online.

Comstock Township Library

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Comstock Township Library
Where community meets the world.

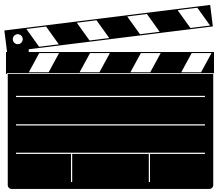
Library Contact
269-345-0136
Info@comstocklibrary.org
www.comstocklibrary.org

Winter Reading Challenge

Starting Tuesday, January 3rd

The Winter Reading Challenge begins! Print off your BINGO sheet on the Library's website or pick one up at the Library. One Lucky family or individual will win $500.

Awful Movie Afternoon for Teens in Grades 8th-12th



Tuesday, January 3rd

Bored teens at home? Bring your sense of humor, sarcastic comments, and your friends for an afternoon of watching awful movies. Movies will be rated PG or PG-13. Drinks and snacks provided.

Saturday, January 14 at 11:00 A.M. or 2 P.M.

Kids Craft: Emoji Backpacks & Unicorn Squishes

Join us for a fun activity of coloring emoji-themed drawstring bags and unicorn squishes! Great for all ages and ability levels. Please call the Library or visit the Events page on the website to register.

Dates to Note

The Library will be closed Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day.

Please register for these free events by calling the library at 269-345-0136 or by visiting the Events page on the library's website www.comstocklibrary.org

Comstock Fire Department

Promotions and Retirements

Congratulations to Brian Simsick on his promotion to Lieutenant. On November 21, 2022, the Comstock Township Board approved the promotion of Lt. Brian Simsick to Station 9-3 after earlier promotions left a vacancy for this position. Simsick has been with Comstock Fire & Rescue since March 8, 2017. Lt. Simsick plays an integral part of the department as a full-time employee, which includes overseeing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and HazMat equipment.

Lieutenant Brian Simsick

Congratulations to Firefighter Roger Gregg on his retirement from Comstock Fire & Rescue. FF/AO Gregg served over 31 years on the department when he retired on December 23, 2022. A lot of hard work, sleepless nights, and time away from family was put in. Roger responded to many emergency scenes making a significant impact on public safety within the community and surrounding area.He was an integral part of countless fires, rescue, and EMS operations. His “can do” attitude and extraordinary work ethic has taken the department forward in many aspects. Roger’s many years of experience will be missed for sure. We wish him well in his retirement and are grateful for all the hard work and dedication to the department and community.

Firefighter Roger Gregg

New Hire Announcements:

Congratulations on our newest probationary firefighters that were approved by the Township Board to join the department. On November 21, 2022 the Board approved to hire Courtland Jones. Courtland Jones joins the department fully trained with his EMT license and FF I/II and HazMat Ops certifications. On December 19, 2022 the Board approved the hiring of 3 probationary firefighters. We welcome Brad Julien, Nathan Bruce and Dave Kranz. They also join the department fully trained with their Medical First Responder license and FF I/II and HazMat Ops certifications.

Fire Hydrants

Winter is upon us and we are requesting that property owners clear snow away from any fire hydrant on or adjacent to their property. Should there be a fire nearby, it is imperative that firefighters have clear access to the hydrants so that hoses can be immediately attached and used to fight the fire. Also, as always, we ask that houses and mailboxes be clearly marked with addresses to assist first responders when responding to emergencies.

Election News

Comstock Township had three elections in 2022. The May 3rd Special Election, the August 2nd Primary, and the November 8th General election.

In May, Comstock had 12,595 registered voters with a total of 2518 voting or 19%

- 5% of voters aged 18-30 voted
- 10% of aged 30-50 voted
- 29% aged 50+ voted
- Included in the total are 1757 absentee voters, which include military and overseas civilians

In August, we had 12,682 registered voters. 3397 or nearly 27% voted

- 9% of voters aged 18-30 voted
- 16% of voters aged 31-50 voted
- 38% of voters aged 50+ voted
- Included in the total are 1938 absentee voters, which include military and overseas civilians

In November, we had 12,843 registered voters with 7320 or 57% voted

- 35% of voters aged 18-30 voted
- 51% of voters 31-50 voted
- 67% of voters over 50 voted
- Included in these totals are 3154 absentee voters, which include military and overseas civilians

**percentages are calculated by registered voters in that age group, not total voters*

Contact us

Find us on Social Media

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/comstocktwp

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/comstockctwp/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ComstockCTwp

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/comstock-charter-township/

Meet the author

Thank you very much for reading this edition of the Comstock Connect Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the latest happenings in our community.

Have a story to share?

Matt Miller
Communications Development Coordinator
(269) 381-2360 ext. 120
mmiller@comstockmi.gov

Charter Township of Comstock

FEES

Fees provided are for information only and are subject to change. Contact the Township office to verify current prices. The Township accepts cash, check, credit card, and money orders for all fees.

Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical Permits

➢ Contact the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) for details or visit their website at www.kaba-mi.org	(269) 216-9511

Credit Card and E-Check Fees

➢ Credit/Debit Card Convenience Fee	
American Express, Discover, Master Card, Visa	Credit/Debit 3%; Minimum $2.00 Charge
➢ E-Checks	
Up to $10,000	$ 3.00
Over $10,000	$10.00

Comstock and Maple Grove Cemetery (Fees Approved by Board 02/01/2021) Fee (Effective 01/01/2023)

	Regular Rate	Winter Rate
➢ Weekday Graves - Regular Burial	$ 850.00	$1050.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Child or Baby Burial	$ 750.00	$950.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Standard Cremation	$ 600.00	$600.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Cremation-Large Vault	$ 700.00	$900.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Drop-off Cremation	$ 350.00	$350.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Drop-Off Cremation-Large Vault	$ 450.00	$650.00
➢ Weekday Graves - Service Scheduled after 2:30 pm-Addt'l Charge	$ 100.00	$100.00
All Monday burials (or Tuesday burials if Monday is a holiday) must be ordered by 4:30 p.m. on the previous Thursday		
➢ Saturday Graves - Regular Burial	$1,200.00	$1400.00
➢ Saturday Graves - Child or Baby Burial	$ 1100.00	$1300.00
➢ Saturday Graves - Standard Cremation	$ 950.00	$950.00
➢ Saturday Graves - Cremation w/Large Vault	$ 1150.00	$1250.00
➢ Saturday Graves - Service Scheduled after 11:30 am-Addt'l Charge	$ 100.00	$100.00
➢ Cremains Placed in a Headstone	$ 250.00	
➢ Lot Price – Resident	$ 250.00	
➢ Lot Price - Non-Resident	$ 500.00	
➢ Foundations; per square inch	$ 0.55	
➢ Additional Charges:		
- Cemetery work or snow removal with Bobcat	$ 170.00/hr.	
- Use of Hydraulic Hammer if necessary due to frost	$ 200.00	

- Large Vault shall be defined as a container with outside measurements larger than 12" x 12" at the base.
- There will be an additional charge of $450 for burials on a day prior to a holiday (i.e. New Year's Day, MLK Jr Birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, July 4th, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Day Before/Day of/Day After Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day).

Comstock Transfer Station (Effective 1/01/2017) Fee

➢ New or Replacement Card (one per household-proof of residency)	$ 20.00/card
➢ Card Renewal	$ 10.00/annual
➢ Grass clippings, garden waste & leaves (no sticks or bags)	No Additional Charge
➢ Tree Debris & Sticks; branches & logs allowed in designated area.	$ 10.00/cubic yard
➢ Tires (Limit of 6 tires per household)	$ 3.00/tire
➢ Rubbish	$ 20.00/cubic yard

Sanitary Sewer Connection Fee

➢ Special Assessment (FF Charge-Per GIS) – 06/01/2011	$ 50.00/FF
➢ Parcel Fee – 06/01/2011	$ 4,500.00
➢ Per Unit Benefit Fee – 06/01/2011	$ 2,000.00
➢ User Unit Schedule-Charge based on demand – 8/2004	See Treasurer for Schedule

Revised: 12/19/2022

Water Service Connection	Fee

- Water Service Connections Are Done By the City of Kalamazoo or City of Galesburg; Please Contact the Township for More Details
- Water Service Special Assessment (FF Charge-Per GIS) – 6/1/2011 $ 37.00/FF

Sanitary Sewer and/or Water Service Connection Private Contract Agreements are available at an 8% Interest Charge on the principal balance. For any parcels on a corner lot, the first 150 feet on the longest side is exempt from the front footage charge.

Economic Development	Fee	(Approved 8/16/2021)

- Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate Application $500
- IFT w/Establishment of Industrial development District (IDD) Application $750

Planning and Zoning Application Fee Schedule	Fee	(Amended 10/03/2022)

Rezoning	$600/1st ac; $50 ea addt'l acre up to $2,000
Master Plan Amendment	$600
Text Amendment	$600
Special Exception Use (SEU)	$600
SEU Amendment	$300
Conceptual Plan	$100
Administrative Approval	Same as Site Plan Amendment: Minor
Site Plan Amendment: Minor	$250 + Escrow of $750*
Site Plan Amendment: Major	SPR + Escrow of $1,000*
Site Plan Review (SPR):	
< 6 Dwelling units or <1,500 s.f.	$600 + Escrow of $750*
6–99 Dwelling units or 1,500 to 50,000 s.f.	$700 + Escrow of $1,000*
100 Dwelling units or > 50,000 s.f.	$800 + Escrow of $1,500*
PUD/PURD/PUMD	SEU + SPR
Plat, Step 1-3	$300 per Step + Escrow of $1,500*
Site Condo, Step 1-3	$300 per Step + Escrow of $1,500*
Variance Request	$600
Ordinance Interpretation	$600
Zoning Verification Letter	$100
Zoning Compliance Permit; Access. Bldgs.	$ 25
Zoning Compliance Permit; Chickens	$ 25
Accessory Dwelling Unit	$100 + possible additional sewer user unit fees
Temporary Outdoor Sales & Service	$50; $25 renewal in same calendar year
Keeping of Chickens Permit	$25
Temporary Sales and Service Permit	$50/$25 renewal same calendar year
Clear Cutting of Trees Permit	$75 + escrow if Twp Engineer review is necessary
Zoning Compliance Permit; Wireless Communication Facility (WCF);	
Type A WCF	$ 50
Type B & C WCF	$600***
Type D WCF	$ 75
Type E WCF	$600***
Land Division	$150
Parcel Re-description/Lot Line Adjustment	$ 75
Parcel Combination	$ 25
Collection Box	$200 per box-new permit; $100 – annual renewal fee
Sign Permits:	
Permanent freestanding or wall sign	$ 100
Replacement face on existing sign	$ 50
Temporary sign	$ 25 **
Special PC Meeting	$1000
Special ZBA Meeting	$1000

Revised: 12/19/2022

* ***Escrow Account*** – Deposit against which actual fees for Township Engineer, Township Attorney, and any outside consultants will be charged. Residual will be returned to applicant. Account to be replenished as needed and requested by Zoning Administrator. Zoning Administrator may modify escrow amount charged with initial application. The Escrow Fee Policy was approved by the Board on 8/3/2015.

** ***Fee doubled if temporary sign is in place before Temporary Sign Permit is issued.***

*** ***Wireless Communication Facility (WCF):*** This type of WCF is a special except use. The $500 WCF application fee includes the special exception use fee.

Maps (Fees Approved by Board 7/7/2014)[1]	Fee
➢ Street Map (8 ½ x 11)	$ 4.00
➢ Parcel Area Location Map (8 ½ x 11)**	$ 5.00
➢ Water/Sewer Area Loc. Map (8 ½ x 11)**	$ 6.00
➢ Zoning Area Loc. Map (8 ½ x 11**	$ 7.00
➢ School District Map (8 ½ x 11)	$ 7.00
➢ Area Location Map of Future Land Use (8 ½ x 11)**	$ 7.00

[1]Some of these maps are available for viewing and printing in full size on our website at www.comstockmi.gov. If map contains area information pertaining to the property Owner's parcel there is No Charge to property owner.

Copies (These fees were updated in connection with FOIA Requests)	Fee
➢ Size: 8 ½ x 11 (1-side, 2-sided)	$ 0.10
➢ Size: 8 ½ x 14 (1-side)	$ 0.10
➢ Size: 8 ½ x 14 (2-sided)	$ 0.10
➢ Size: 11 x 17 (1-side/2-sided)	- at cost-
➢ Deed (per page)(Fee approved by TB 10/20/2010)	$ 1.00

Parks & Recreation Department (Board Approved Changes eff. 1/1/2023)	Fees
➢ Softball Summer Leagues 14-week schedule	$ 580.00 ($30 forfeit fee)
➢ Softball Fall Leagues 8-week schedule	
○ Single Game	$ 325.00
➢ Ball Field Rental	
○ Per field per day	$ 200.00
○ Per field per day – non-profits	$ 100.0
○ Per field lights	$ 25.00/hr
➢ Ball Field Rental – Pitchers with metal Cleats	
○ Per field per day	$ 250.00
○ Per field per day – non-profits	$ 150.00
○ Per field lights	$ 25.00/hr
➢ Merrill Park – Pavilion Rental	
○ All day only	$ 50.00 Resident
○ Both Pavilions	$ 90.00
➢ Robert Morris Park Pavilion Rental	
○ 9:00am-2:00pm	$ 50.00
○ 3:00pm-Sunset	$ 50.00
➢ Robert Morris Park	
○ Vehicle Parking - Day Pass	$ 5.00
○ Annual Pass	$ 25.00
○ Annual Pass – Senior	$ 10.00

Revised: 12/19/2022